

The present invention as particularly set forth in independent claim 1 recites at least one storage medium unit that includes a controller for selecting a play mode of the information data in accordance with the distribution control data.

(1) Voeten does not describe that his storage medium unit includes a controller for controlling the play mode of the information data. By contrast, Voeten teaches away (column 15, lines 51-58 and column 16, lines 1-17) from the feature of a storage medium unit including a controller for controlling the play mode. As Voeten explains, his fast forward or rewind "is not achieved by retrieving the video signal VS at faster rates nor by retrieving it in a different sequence since this would be in conflict with the basic principles of the video server." According to Voeten (column 1, lines 52-57), the basic principle of his invention is that his server control means is kept relatively simple. To that end, Voeten describes (column 16, lines 11-17) providing a special video signal on a special channel. In other words, Voeten's storage medium units do not select the play mode; Voeten's storage medium units play back the special video signal as directed by his server control means.

It will be appreciated that dependent claims 2-25 recite limitations which are further distinguishing over Voeten.

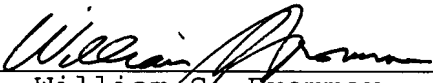
In view of the above-noted amendments and remarks, reconsideration and early allowance of claims 1-25 are solicited.

Statements appearing above in regard to the cited

reference reflect the opinions of Applicants' undersigned attorney and, if the Examiner disagrees therewith, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner indicate specifically where in the reference there is a basis for a contrary view.

Respectfully submitted,

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